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*Amendments to the claims:*

Please cancel claim 1, without prejudice.

Please amend claim 2 as indicated.

2. The feminine hygiene article of claim + 16, comprising a soft material that is substantially non-irritating to human skin and membranes in the genital area.

Please amend claims 5 and 6 as indicated.

5. The article of claim + 16, wherein said article comprises at least one folded layer.

6. The article of claim + 16, wherein said article comprises at least one layer and is rolled into an elongated coil.

Please amend claims 8-13 as indicated.

8. The article of claim + 16, wherein said article has a length between about 6 inches and about 10 inches.

9. The article of claim + 16, wherein said article has a width less than about 1.5 inches.

10. The article of claim + 16, wherein said article has a height between about 0.5 inches and about 1.5 inches.

11. The article of claim + 16, wherein said article is flexible and can conform to the shape of the body area where it is used.

12. The article of claim + 16, comprising a material that can be flushed into a sewer

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system.

13. The article of claim + 16, comprising a material that is biodegradable.

Please cancel claim 14, without prejudice.

Please amend claim 15 as indicated.

15. The kit of claim +2 17, wherein said absorbent article is selected from panty liners, mini-pads, maxi-pads, and sanitary napkins.

Please add new claims 16 and 17:

16. (New) A feminine hygiene article for absorption of bodily fluids, comprising:

an elongated absorbent article having a front end, a back end, a length between said front and back ends sufficient to extend from a point between the user's buttocks to a point beyond the user's urogenital area;

wherein said back end is formed for retention between a user's buttocks while said front end extends forward between the user's legs and beyond the user's urogenital area, said back end has a height less than about 2 inches and a width sufficiently small to fit between the user's buttocks and legs without causing significant discomfort, and said front end does not include an intravaginal portion.

17. (New) A feminine hygiene kit, comprising:

an elongated absorbent article having a front end, a back end, a length between

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said front and back ends sufficient to extend from a point between the user's buttocks to a point beyond the user's urogenital area, wherein said back end is formed for retention between a user's buttocks while said front end extends forward between the user's legs and beyond the user's urogenital area, said back end has a height less than about 2 inches and a width sufficiently small to fit between the user's buttocks and legs without causing significant discomfort, and said front end does not include an intravaginal portion; and

an absorbent pad held in placed between the user's panties and her urogenital area.